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RURAL DISTRICT OF WINSLOW.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

1938.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT, WINSLOW, for the year 1938.

Statistics and Social Conditions of Area.

Area (in acres) of Winslow District, 36,260.
Population estimated 1938, 6,576.
Number of inhabited Houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Book, 2092.
Rateable Value £26,912.
Sum represented by Penny Rate, £106.
The District is principally Agricultural.

Extract of Vital Statistics for the year 1938.

Live Births. Total 59.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	59	22	37
Illegitimate	None.		

Birth Rate per Thousand Births 9·0.

Still Births. None.

Deaths. Total 74. Males 39. Females 35.

Death Rate per Thousand 11·2.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis. One.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age. None.

Deaths from Measles. None.

" " Whooping Cough. None.

" " Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age). None.

" " Cancer. 6.

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Consist of one part-time Medical Officer of Health and a whole-time Sanitary Inspector.

Two Medical Practitioners act as Medical Officers for the Authority under the Poor Law Acts and as Public Vaccinators.

Laboratory Facilities.

Any Clinical Material for examination is sent to the Clinical Research Association, London.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For Non-Infectious Cases and Accidents. None within the District, the nearest being at Buckingham, Bletchley and Aylesbury.

(b) For Infectious Cases (apart from Small Pox) an Ambulance is supplied by the Grove Fever Hospital, Linslade.

(c) For Small Pox Cases, an Ambulance is kept at the Small Pox Hospital at Woughton, near Fenny Stratford.

Nursing in the Home.

(a) General Nursing, In Winslow and all the Villages in the Winslow District a District Nurse can be called in to all except infectious cases.

(b) Infectious Cases. No provision is made for the Nursing of infectious cases in their homes.

The Owners of the Grove Fever Hospital, Linslade, have kindly taken in any suitable infectious case that has occurred within the District.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

One in Winslow, held the first Wednesday in each month, a Doctor and Nurse attending for consultation and advice. This Centre is supported by the County Health Authority.

Hospitals.

(1) SMALL POX. One of two beds at Woughton, near Fenny Stratford. Four beds are always ready for use, Nurses being provided by the General Hospital, Northampton.

(2) TUBERCULOSIS. None within the District. Suitable cases are sent to the Berks and Bucks Sanatorium.

(3) GENERAL. None within the District.

(4) There is a Poor Law Infirmary in Winslow providing about 60 beds.

Mental Deficiency.

There is an Institution in Winslow for Mental Defectives. 40 beds are provided—33 for Females and 7 for Males. All cases are feeble-minded and of low grade.

Prevalence of and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

During the year 20 cases are reported.

No use of the Schick and Dick Tests for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively have been made.

No action has been taken to provide Measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation.

No Vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1938.

	Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	15	14	None
Diphtheria	2	2	None
Pneumonia	3	1	One

TUBERCULOSIS.

Death Rate per Thousand 0.3.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0								
1								
5								
15								
25								
35	1	1			1			
45			1					
55								
65 upwards					1			
Total	1	1	1		2			

Analysis of Total Deaths under Age Groups.

Diseases.	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and upwards
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System										1		1
Cancer and Malignany											2	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage											1	6
Heart Disease										1	3	11
Bronchitis								1		1	1	5
Pneumonia											1	4
Influenza											2	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...									1			
Diabetes										1		1
Other Digestive Diseases ...												2
Peptic Ulcer											1	
Suicide											2	
Puerperal Sepsis									1			
Violence							1		1			
Cerebro Spinal Fever												1
Syphilis											1	
Other Circulatory Diseases ...												1
Ill defined or Not Known ...											1	
Other Defined Diseases ...										1	1	4
Senility												7

A. E. LEAPINGWELL,
Medical Officer of Health.
Winslow.

WINSLOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor for the Year 1938.

Council Offices,
162, High Street,
Winslow,
Bucks.

To the Chairman and Members of the Winslow Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Curtis and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present herewith my first Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1938.

I was appointed to this post in July and commenced my duties on August 8th, and whilst I have included particulars of work carried out by my predecessor as far as these can be ascertained, the majority of the figures given refer to the last five months of the year only.

Water Supplies.

The most outstanding feature during the year was the progress made with the laying of new mains by the Bucks Water Board and the construction of the Water Tower at Mursley. By the end of the year this preliminary work was completed in most of the parishes in the district.

All the public supplies in the district at present consist of wells with pumps, and in a few cases the water is piped from the wells to standpipes.

The existing supplies have been maintained although it has been necessary to cart water to Granborough.

Public pumps, wells, etc., have received attention in the following parishes :—

Drayton Parslow.
East Claydon.
Great Horwood.
Nash.
Whaddon.
Little Horwood.
Hoggeston.
Newton Longville.
Winslow.

The public supplies at Whaddon were found to be unfit for drinking and in August a Ministry of Health Inquiry was held respecting the water supply in this parish. The wells were cleaned out and following the Inquiry warning notices were posted on each of the pumps.

One of the public wells in Winslow was found to be polluted and a notice has been affixed to the pump prohibiting the use of the water for drinking purposes.

Four samples of water were taken for chemical analysis and all were reported to be unfit for drinking purposes. Two of these were from public and two from private wells, and in each case steps have been taken to exclude surface water and improve the sources of supply.

14 new wells have been dug in the district and many others cleaned out.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Proper sewerage systems with Disposal Works are in existence at Winslow, Mursley and Stewkley, whilst there are small filter beds or septic tanks giving partial treatment in the parishes of Great Horwood, Whaddon, Shenley Brook End, North Marston, Drayton Parslow and Newton Longville. In most of the other villages sink and waste water drains discharge into the surface water sewers or sewer ditches, the latter being cleaned out when necessary by the Council.

The septic and other sewage tanks have been cleaned out during the year.

Drayton Parslow.

A small sewage treatment plant, consisting of septic tank, percolating filter and humus tank, was installed on the Council's new Housing Estate.

Messrs. Balfour & Sons, the Council's Consulting Engineers are preparing a comprehensive scheme for this parish.

Granborough.

A short length of by-pass drain with a storm overflow chamber has been constructed in this parish to prevent sewage polluting a cattle drinking pond.

Mursley.

The sewer was extended along the Whaddon Road for a distance of approximately 150 yards to serve the Council's new Housing Estate and adjoining building sites.

Newton Longville.

The contract for the comprehensive scheme for this parish was re-advertised and a tender accepted, but owing to the International Crisis and other delays it was not possible to actually make a start with the work before the end of the year.

North Marston.

The Council's Consulting Engineers have been proceeding with the preparation of a scheme for the new sewerage and disposal works in this parish.

Stewkley.

The Council's Consulting Engineers have been proceeding with the comprehensive scheme for new sewerage and disposal works in this parish.

Further trouble has been experienced with the existing works owing to the Thames Conservancy Board being dissatisfied with the effluent.

In September various alterations were made at the works, the chief being a different method of emptying the settling tanks, which have resulted in a greatly improved effluent.

The statutory notice from the Thames Conservancy Board is still in force pending the construction of the proposed new scheme.

Whaddon.

During the year Messrs. Balfour & Sons were instructed with regard to the proper sewering of Whaddon and their report and draft scheme was presented to the Council.

Winslow.

The public sewer was extended along Burley's Road and Verney Road.

New Connections.

The following premises have been connected to the public sewers :—

Mursley 11.
Winslow 2.
Drayton Parslow 1

Drainage and Sanitary Accommodation to Houses, etc.

Except in the sewered parishes, the large majority of houses are on the conservancy system, although there is an increasing tendency, especially at the larger houses and the public houses, for the pail-closets and old sanitary privies to be replaced by proper water-closets.

93 tests to new drains have been made, most of these being water tests. The majority of these drains were in connection with new properties, although in several instances old properties have had new drains provided.

68 other inspections re house drainage have been made.

The lack of adequate supplies of water for flushing has greatly retarded this progressive tendency but there is no doubt that as soon as the main water is available many more closet conversions will be carried out, both in sewered and unsewered areas.

New W.C.s constructed	81.
,, E.C.s ,,	14.
E.C.s converted to W.C.s	14.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

There is no river in the district, most of which comes within the Great Ouse Catchment Board's area. Portions of the parishes of Stewkley, Dunton, North Marston, Hogshaw and East Claydon are, however, within the area of the Thames Conservancy Board.

Steps taken to prevent pollution include the regular cleaning out of sewage ditches.

2 informal notices were served in respect of pollution of ditches and streams.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse Collection.

In the parish of Winslow a weekly collection of house refuse is carried out by direct labour, the refuse being disposed of at the Council's own tip. The combustible refuse is burnt and the remainder used for raising the level of the tip, being levelled and covered with ashes and street sweepings.

A scheme was inaugurated for a quarterly collection of house refuse in the parishes of Drayton Parslow, East Claydon, Granborough, Great Horwood, Little Horwood, Mursley, Nash, Newton Longville, Shenley Brook End, Swanbourne and Whaddon. A tip was rented and prepared at Little Horwood, and the contract for collection arranged, although the actual collection had not been commenced by the end of the year.

A quarterly collection was also made in the parish of Stewkley and the refuse disposed of outside the boundary of the Rural District. In this case the work is supervised by the parish Council.

Cesspool Emptying, etc.

This work is not undertaken by the Council, although certain privies in the parish of Winslow are cleaned out annually, the work being carried out at night.

Street Sweeping.

In the parish of Winslow the main road and Market Square are swept twice weekly and paper, etc., cleared from the streets on Sunday mornings. This work, including the cleansing of street gullies, is carried out by direct labour and a grant towards the cost is made by the Bucks County Council.

Infectious Diseases.

15 cases of Scarlet Fever and 2 of Diphtheria were notified during the year. All these were removed to Hospital with the exception of one case of Scarlet Fever, which was nursed at home. In every case the premises were disinfected.

Inspection of Meat and Foods.

There are 9 slaughter houses now in use in the district, 8 of these being registered and 1 licensed. 443 visits have been paid to the slaughter houses and butchers' shops. These are generally kept in a clean condition and the slaughterhouses limewashed at regular intervals. It has not been found necessary to make any formal siezures of unsound food, the comparitively small amount of meat found diseased always being surrendered and destroyed.

The general standard of the meat inspected was very good, 1,594 carcases being inspected and following parts being destroyed as unfit for consumption :—

Beef.

2 Heads and Tongues.	Tuberculosis.	50 lbs.	
2 sets Lungs.	do.	18 lbs.	
1 Mesentery.	do.	5 lbs.	
1 Liver.	do.	13 lbs.	
1 Liver.	Distomatosis.	10 lbs.	
1 Leg.	Fracture.	25 lbs.	
		———	121 lbs.

Pork.

2 Heads.	Tuberculosis.	19 lbs.	
1 set Lungs.	do.	3 lbs.	
2 Mesenteries.	do.	3 lbs.	
			25 lbs.
	Total		146 lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle including calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number inspected	283	858	453
All diseases except Tuberculosis			
Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	0·4	0	0
Tuberculosis only			
Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	0	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1·4	0	1·1

Milk Supply.

The production of milk is undoubtedly one of the leading industries in this district, there being 215 Producers and 27 Retailers on the Register.

26 Cowsheds and Dairies have been inspected and 7 informal notices served re cleansing and limewashing, etc. 5 new Cowsheds have been erected during the year.

I very much regret that owing to pressure of other work it has not been possible to devote sufficient time to the inspection of Cowsheds and Dairies and clean milk supply.

No milk sampling was carried out by this authority as the County Council administer the Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

Shops, etc.

Inspections have been made but no complaints have been received and in no case was it found necessary to take any action under the Shops Act or Publich Health Act.

Camping Sites.

No licences with respect to camping sites or caravans, etc., have been issued. Very little camping takes place in the district.

Smoke Abatement.

There is only one Factory in the district regularly discharging smoke, but in this case no complaints have been received nor any cause for complaint observed.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Baths or Swimming Pools in the district which are open to the public.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No. of Houses found infested		
Council Houses	...	Nil.
Other Houses	...	2.

In both the above cases disinfestation was carried out by the Council and effected by spraying with "Zaldecide." No further complaints have been received.

Storage of Petroleum and Carbide of Calcium.

16 licences were issued to store a total amount of 12,800 gallons of petrol and 2 licences for Carbide of Calcium (1,560 lbs.).

Factories and Workshops.

118 Inspections were made and one Certificate of Adequate Means of Escape in case of Fire issued to the London Brick Co. Ltd. in respect of their Newton Longville Works, under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937.

There are no other Factories in the district requiring such a Certificate.

The Factories Act, 1937, came into operation on July 1st, 1938, and superseded the Act of 1901. This new Act makes certain alterations in the duties of local authorities with regard to factories and workshops, all of which are now designated "factories."

There are 19 bakehouses in the district now in use.

Housing.

Owing to the completion of the Council's new housing estates considerable progress was made with the slum clearance programme and the relief of overcrowding.

16 houses were demolished, 11 of these being in Clearance Areas, whilst 20 were reconditioned or repaired.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—*
   - (1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 156
   - (*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 249
   - (2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 48
   - (*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 102
   - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 1
   - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 24
2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*
   - Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 20
3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*
   - (a).—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
     - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... nil
     - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
       - (*a*) By owners ... ... nil
       - (*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... nil
   - (b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
     - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... nil
     - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
       - (*a*) By owners ... ... nil
       - (*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... nil

(c).—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	nil

(d).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	nil

4. *Housing Act*, 1936—*Part IV.—Overcrowding :—*

(a).— (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	11
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	11
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	120
(b).—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	nil
(c).—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	46
(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	nil
(e).—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	nil

Council Houses.

No. at beginning of year ...	146
No. completed during year ...	44
Total	190

The construction of a further 18 houses at Stewkley and 20 at Winslow was commenced.

162 complains, etc., were received and investigated, 377 visits being paid to the houses for this purpose and the following matters were attend to :—

Defective roofs and gutter repaired ...	39
Doors repaired	33
Defective grates repaired	22
Firebricks (sets) supplied	12
Windows repaired	14
Drains cleared or repaired	13
Pumps repaired or renewed	13
Defective plaster made good	11
Sinks refixed or repaired	7
New sanitary pails supplied	7
Coppers repaired	6
Other defects remedied	49

Distemper was supplied to 25 tenants.

New Buildings.

There has been more building activity in the district during 1938 than for many years past, and 55 plans were deposited during the year. All these plans, which were in respect of 126 buildings, were finally approved, although in some cases only after re-submission with amendments. In one instance advantage was taken of Section 53 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to pass plans of a temporary building for a period of 3 years only.

487 Inspections were made in connection with buildings in course of erection.

The following table indicates the buildings for which plans were passed and also the buildings actually completed during the year :—

PARISH.	BUILDINGS APPROVED.				BUILDINGS ERECTED.			
	Council Houses.	Other Houses.	Alterations, etc., to existing Houses.	Other Buildings.	Council Houses.	Other Houses.	Alterations, etc., to existing Houses.	Other Buildings.
Drayton Parslow...	2	1	—	1	2	—	—	1
Dunton ..	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Great Horwood ...	16	2	—	—	16	—	—	1
Hoggeston ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Little Horwood ...	--	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Mursley ...	8	3	1	1	8	4	1	—
Nash ...	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	1
Newton Longville	—	11	—	2	10	3	—	1
North Marston ...	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—
Stewkley ...	18	2	—	1	—	—	—	1
Swanbourne ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Whaddon ...	—	3	1	1	8	1	1	1
Winslow ...	20	4	17	2	—	2	10	1
	64	29	22	11	44	14	14	9
	Total 126.				Total 81.			

The most notable features in the plans passed during the year were the new Manor at Little Horwood, the large number of Council Houses, extensions at Newton Longville Brickworks and the new Senior School at Winslow.

National Defence.

This is an entirely new section to appear in the Annual Report of a Sanitary Inspector but nevertheless one of ever-increasing importance and the Report would not be complete without some reference to the work which has taken up so much time during the year. In fact, at one period in September it became the sole concern of my department to the complete exclusion of all other duties.

When, during September, an appeal was issued for volunteers for the Rescue and Demolition Party and the Decontamination Squad allocated to this district there was an immediate response. The necessary number of men enrolled and training was commenced and was still in progress at the end of the year. One of each of the above squads was allocated to this district and a certain amount of equipment obtained from the Area headquarters at Buckingham. The men are to be complimented on the prompt manner in which they volunteered and their regular attendance at the course of training.

Particulars of the available builders' plant, etc., and lorries for transport were also obtained in readiness for the threatened emergency.

Summary of Inspections, etc.

Total inspections for all purposes ...	2467
Complaints received	29
Nuisances found	31
Nuisances abated	26
Statutory notices served	nil
Informal notices served	26
Notices complied with	21
New Houses erected	58
New Building inspections	487
Slaughterhouses and Butchers' shops ...	443
Carcases inspected	1594
Water supply visits	105
Visits to Sewage Disposal Works ...	51
Inspections re drainage and sewerage ...	161
Drain Tests	93
Factories Act visits	118
Houses inspected	156
Total Housing inspections	249
Total Houses repaired	20
Total Houses demolished	16
Overcrowding cases abated	6
Petroleum Act inspections	6
Petroleum licences issued	17
Visits to Refuse tips	12
Cases of Infectious Disease	20
Visits to Infected House	31
Houses Disinfected	18
Council House—Complaints	162
,, ,, —Inspections	377
,, ,, —Repairs	251
Cowkeepers on Register	215
Retailers on Register	27
Cowsheds and Dairies inspected ...	26

In conclusion I wish to record my appreciation of the support and assistance rendered by the Members and Officers of the Council during the year and beg to remain, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Curtis and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

H. NICHOLLS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector and
Building Surveyor.

Printed at Winslow by G. T. De Fraine & Co., Ltd.